

a2
bias means connected to the housing and to the support arms for biasing the support arms toward retracting the ends, wherein the ends of the support arms have means for engaging the top rim of the cooking vessel and wherein the means for extending and retracting the ends from and toward the housing comprise pivots wherein the arms are pivotally connected to the housing.

a3
12 13 (Amended). The food stirrer of claim [12] 11 wherein the bias means comprises a spring mechanism.

R E M A R K S

The Patent and Trademark Office Action dated August 30, 1999 has been carefully considered. Applicant has reviewed the specification and drawings and has made certain corrections and additions as noted in this amendment including the proposed corrections to the drawings indicated in red.

In addition to correcting the title to the invention, the Applicant has made the corrections noted by the Examiner in his Action.

With regard to the Action on the merits rejecting claim 11 and certain claims depending on claim 11, Applicant has amended claim 11 to include the subject matter of claim 12 into claim 11, wherein the pivotal feature of the arms is included in the base claim. Applicant has reviewed the references cited by the Examiner including those made of record but not included in the rejection. Applicant believes that the amendment distinguishes over the references rendering allowable, all claims that are now pending.